



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Louisiana Farm Reporter
Volume 09 Number 23
December 7, 2009



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture
Louisiana Field Office • 5825 Florida Blvd • Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 922-1362 • (225)922-0744 FAX www.nass.usda.gov/la

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

October Livestock Slaughter
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during October totaled 500,000 pounds, unchanged from September but 29 percent below the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during October, unchanged from September but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 705 pounds, down 28 pounds from the previous month and 11 pounds below September 2008. Total live weight, at 395,000 pounds, was three percent below the previous month and 29 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during October totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous month and 200 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 494 pounds, down 43 pounds from September and 18 pounds below September 2008. Total live weight, at 221,000 pounds, was down two percent from September and 28 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during October totaled 1,100 head, unchanged from the previous month but 300 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 184 pounds, up five pounds from September and one pound above the previous year. Total live weight was 205,000 pounds, up seven percent from September but 18 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during October was 300 head, down 100 head from September but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 60 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but nine pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.4 billion pounds in October, down three percent from the 4.5 billion pounds produced in October 2008.

October 2009 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays. **October 2008** contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.3 billion pounds, was three percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.9 million head, down three percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up nine pounds from the previous year, at 1,312 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, ten percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 83,600 head, down 13 percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up five pounds from last year, at 249 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.1 billion pounds, down three percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.3 million head, down four percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up three pounds from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.3 million pounds, was down five percent from October 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 218,800 head, three percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down two pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2009 commercial red meat production was 41.2 billion pounds, down two percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down three percent from last year; veal was down four percent; pork was down two percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down three percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	Sept	October		Jan. – Oct.		October		January – October	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
----- Number, thousand head -----									
Cattle	0.6	0.8	0.6	6.1	6.1	2,989.1	2,885.6	29,177.0	27,981.2
Calves	0.5	0.6	0.4	3.7	3.6	95.6	83.6	781.3	770.3
Hogs	1.1	1.4	1.1	12.4	10.3	10,746.1	10,319.4	96,984.0	94,290.0
Sheep & Lambs	0.4	0.3	0.3	3.1	3.6	225.3	218.8	2,132.2	2,062.8
----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----									
Cattle	406	553	395	4,831	4,439	3,882,244	3,772,461	37,160,517	36,041,891
Calves	255	309	221	1,880	1,829	23,003	20,594	200,965	191,626
Hogs	191	249	205	2,527	2,025	2,892,531	2,800,158	25,933,396	25,487,464
Sheep & Lambs	27	23	17	206	203	29,903	28,624	291,096	281,037
----- Average live weight, pounds -----									
Cattle	733	716	705	792	728	1,303	1,312	1,278	1,292
Calves	537	512	494	508	508	244	249	261	251
Hogs	179	183	184	204	197	269	272	268	271
Sheep & Lambs	60	69	60	66	56	133	131	137	136
----- Million pounds -----									
Red Meat	0.5	0.7	0.5	5.9	5.3	4,529.3	4,391.1	42,190.8	41,154.4

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta States: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 33,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down eight percent from October 12-18, 2008. Of the 33,000 hired workers, those that work 150 days or more per year accounted for 79 percent of the total, and workers that work 149 days or fewer accounted for the remaining 21 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$9.50 per hour compared to \$8.90 per hour in October 2008. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.41 per hour less than the average wage rate at the U.S. level. Livestock workers earned \$9.16 per hour compared to \$8.83 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$8.86 or 35 cents more this October than last October.

The average number of hours worked, at 38.0 hours per week, was 1.0 hour less per week than the current U.S. average of 39.0 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1,092,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down two percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 807,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.25 per hour, up 20 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.23 per hour compared with \$10.21 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.24 per hour, was up 15 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down six percent from a year ago.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	October 2008	July 2009	October 2009	October 2008	July ² 2009	October 2009
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
Hired Workers (All)	36	34	33	1,120	1,256	1,092
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	316	381	285
Hired Farm Workers	36	34	33	804	875	807
150 Days or More	26	28	26	577	609	585
149 Days or Less	10	6	7	227	266	222
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
Average Hours Worked						
(Hired Farm Workers)	42.4	38.5	38.0	41.4	39.7	39.0
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
Average Wage Rate						
(Hired Farm Workers)	\$8.90	\$9.42	\$9.50	\$10.70	\$10.66	\$10.91
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$8.51	\$8.69	\$8.86	\$10.05	\$10.04	\$10.25
Livestock	\$8.83	\$9.15	\$9.16	\$10.21	\$10.05	\$10.23

¹ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

² Revised

--- Data not published.

November Farm Prices Received Index Unchanged

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 134 percent, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from October. The Crop Index was down one point but the Livestock Index increased four points. Producers received higher prices for lettuce, eggs, milk and tomatoes and lower prices for apples, broccoli, strawberries and grapes. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of milk, cotton, cattle and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down eight points from November 2008. The Food Commodities Index, at 134, increased one point from last month but decreased five points from November 2008.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 176 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from October but six points below November 2008. Lower prices in November for nitrogen, complete feeds, other services and potash & phosphate offset higher prices for diesel, supplements, LP gas and feeder cattle.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	November 2008	October 2009	November 2009 ¹	November 2008	October 2009	November 2009 ¹
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	9.59	9.51	9.50	9.39	9.44	9.48
Sorghum, per cwt	n/a	5.50	2/	6.48	5.55	5.79
Rice, per cwt	17.40	12.60	12.70	19.40	14.20	14.10
Upland Cotton, per pound	.520	.601	2/	.548	.567	.579 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	149.00	106.00	107.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	52.30	53.50	52.70	84.30	79.20	79.80
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	76.20	77.20	77.00	90.90	84.40	85.60
Cows, per cwt ⁵	38.90	39.60	39.00	43.10	43.60	42.00
Calves, per cwt	90.30	89.70	90.00	105.00	104.00	105.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.460	0.400	0.410
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.020	0.803	1.010
Milk, All, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.10	14.20	15.00

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

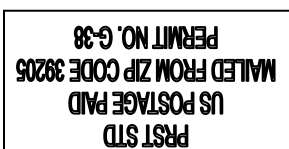
⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available.

The Louisiana Farm Reporter is published twice a month by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, La 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Postmaster: send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038

Internet Access:

*For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication, go to our homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/la> and click on "Subscribe to LA reports" on the right hand side of the page. Choose the reports you want to receive, and complete the form.



Louisiana
Agricultural
Statistics
Service



Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
(225) 922-1362
5825 Florida Blvd., PO Box 65038
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038